The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas

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Summary Part Four

D’Artagnan receives two letters, one from Madame Bonacieux and one from the Cardinal. The Cardinal’s letter requested his presence for a meeting and Madame Bonacieux’s letter told him to wait at a bridge. With his three friends going as protection, D’Artagnan goes to both even though the times are almost conflicting with each other. D’Artagnan was relieved to see that Madame Bonacieux was still alive, although he only saw her passing by in a carriage. At the meeting with the Cardinal, d’Artagnan was offered a position as an officer in his guard. D’Artagnan refused and the Cardinal warned him of potential attacks that only he could protect d’Artagnan from. In the following days the three musketeers had to leave for Paris for battle, leaving d’Artagnan to be shot at, almost killed during a dangerous reconnaissance mission, and nearly missed being poisoned by wine sent from Milady.

On another mission that d’Artagnan wasn’t present for, the three musketeers ran into the Cardinal while he was dining at an inn. From there, they accompanied the Cardinal to secrete meeting, with Milady, where they were able to overhear the plans for the potential assassination of the Duke of Buckingham. When the Cardinal leaves, Athos confronts Milady telling her if anything were to happen to d’Artagnan he would kill her.

When the four friends reunite at a loud and people-filled tavern, they make a bet with some soldiers that they would be able to hold the Saint Gervais Fort by themselves for a full hour. At the fort they were able to inform d’Artagnan of the Cardinal’s plan, which lead them to decide to write two letters; one to the Duke of Buckingham warning him of the assassination and the other to Lord de Winter informing him of his sister-in-law’s crimes and urging him to imprison her when she arrives in Britain. After winning the bet with the soldiers, two of the musketeers’ servants were sent to deliver the letters and returned within two weeks. Because of the letter to Lord de Winter, Milady was captured and sent to a mansion in the country to be kept imprisoned. Also, because of the bravery shown while defending the Saint Gervais Fort, d’Artagnan was recommending to join the ranks of the musketeers.

Analysis

I was really surprised on how hell-bent the Cardinal and Milady were about trying to kill d’Artagnan, but of course he has caused quite a bit of discontent between them. I have decided that I really do not like the Cardinal and I wish he would stop trying to get the four to be under his command. Personally, I think he would end up getting them killed somehow. I was very happy when d’Artagnan finally became a musketeer. He is definitely deserving of the title.

Application

I had a hard time finding something from this section that would connect to the essential question. There really wasn’t any characteristic that particularly jumped out at me like in the other three sections. Again, for this section I can say that the devotion from d’Artagnan’s friends is extremely important for them. The three musketeers are always ready to go out of their way to protect their young friend, even if it means there may be a chance for getting themselves killed in the process. Another example of devotion would be Milady’s devotion to help the Cardinal. She was putting herself in danger because she was traveling to Britain to try and assassinate the Duke. Even though she is a “demon,” she is devoted to the affairs of the Cardinal.